United Nations CEDAW/C/PSWG/66/1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Pre-sessional working group
Sixty-sixth session
25-29 July 2016

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the pre-sessional working group

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-sessional working group for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the initial and periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at one of its future sessions.

2. The Committee decided that the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-sixth session of the Committee would meet from 25 to 29 July 2016, immediately after the sixty-fourth session, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions, as well as to ensure their timely translation.

3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-sessional working group and attended the session:

Gladys Acosta Vargas
Hilary Gbedemah
Nahla Haidar
Lia Nadaraia
Biancamaria Pomeranzi

4. The pre-sessional working group elected Ms. Pomeranzi as its Chair.

5. The pre-sessional working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of El Salvador, Germany, Jordan, Micronesia (Federated States of), Rwanda, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. In that regard, it was guided by Committee decision 49/IX, according to which the Committee decided to limit such lists to

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20 questions. In practice and exceptionally, some lists contain a maximum of 23 questions. In accordance with its decisions 58/II, 59/IV and 60/IX, the Committee, on a pilot basis, prepared a list of issues and questions prior to reporting under its optional simplified reporting procedure, namely a list of issues and questions prior to the submission of the sixth periodic report of Israel. For this, it was guided by its decisions 59/IV and 64/II, according to which the Committee decided to limit such lists to 25 paragraphs and to 75 questions, respectively.

6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-sessional working group had before it the reports of the States parties listed above, with the exception of Israel, which had availed itself of the simplified reporting procedure, in addition to the core documents of those States parties; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the secretariat; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, if relevant. In preparing the lists, the pre-sessional working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on their previous reports, except in the case of the Federated States of Micronesia, which had submitted its initial report.

7. The pre-sessional working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions.

8. The lists of issues and questions adopted by the pre-sessional working group were transmitted to the States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of El Salvador (CEDAW/C/SLV/Q/8-9);

(b) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Germany (CEDAW/C/DEU/Q/7-8);

(c) List of issues and questions in relation to the sixth periodic report of Jordan (CEDAW/C/JOR/Q/6);

(d) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined initial to third periodic reports of the Federated States of Micronesia (CEDAW/C/FSM/Q/1-3);

(e) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh to ninth periodic reports of Rwanda (CEDAW/C/RWA/Q/7-9);

(f) List of issues and questions in relation to the eighth periodic report of Sri Lanka (CEDAW/C/LKA/Q/8);

(g) List of issues and questions in relation to the eighth periodic report of Ukraine (CEDAW/C/UKR/Q/8).

9. The list of issues and questions prior to the submission of the sixth periodic report of Israel (CEDAW/C/ISR/QPR/6) will be submitted to the Committee for approval at its sixty-sixth session (13 February-3 March 2017) before being transmitted to the State party.

10. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention and on the

linkages between relevant themes and target 5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Those themes include the constitutional and legislative framework; women and peace and security, where applicable; national machinery for the advancement of women; stereotypes and harmful practices; violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; nationality; education and training; employment; health; social and economic benefits; rural women; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities and refugee and migrant women; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.